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## *JUDICIAL PROFILE*

**Stephen A. Gerst** has been assigned to the Criminal Department since May 1996. He rose to a leadership role within five years of his appointment to the bench in 1984. After managing domestic relations, civil and criminal calendars between 1984 and 1989, he became Presiding Judge of the Domestic Relations Department, which is now called Family Court. While serving in that assignment, he was instrumental in expediting procedures for temporary orders in pending cases, instituting expedited support enforcement and adopting new visitation and child support guidelines. He also coordinated the production of a videotape on how to process a divorce case. In July 1992, he was appointed Special Assignment Presiding Judge, where he remained until 1996. Before becoming a Superior Court Judge, he built a solid legal foundation working for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office from 1966 through 1969 and then spending 15 years in private practice. He graduated from the University of Arizona Law School in 1966.



Judge Gerst is dedicated to mentoring and educating law students as well as his fellow judges. He is often sought out for advice and counsel by his colleagues and has a reputation as an extremely thoughtful, even-tempered and knowledgeable jurist. He was formerly Dean of the Judicial College of Arizona and has served as Chairman of the Continuing Education Committee for the Superior Court. He chaired the Arizona Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Child Support and Visitation and has served on the State Bar Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct and the Supreme Court Work Group on Domestic Violence. He is presently a member of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, which provides guidance and education to judges on Code of Judicial Conduct issues. He also has a flair for writing and regularly has a column about his experience as a judge printed in local newspapers.